

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Badi Foster

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Foster, Badi G., 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster,
Dates:	January 25, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:06:40).
Abstract:	Educator and nonprofit executive Badi Foster (1942 - 2019) was the CEO of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, which serves the educational needs of African Americans, Native Americans, Africans, and the poor. Foster also worked at Princeton University, Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts, Harvard University and Tufts University. Foster was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 25, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_021
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and nonprofit executive Badi Foster was born on September 29, 1942, in Chicago, to Ruth and William Foster. Raised as a B'hai, Foster spent his childhood in Africa and graduated from the American School of Tangier in Morocco in 1960. He returned to the United States to attend the University of Denver, earning a B.A. in international relations with a concentration in African studies. At Princeton University, Foster received an M.A. in 1967 and a Ph.D. in 1974 in political science. While doing doctoral research as a Fulbright scholar on the impact of urbanization on Africa, he held various positions as an educator and lecturer at Princeton, Rutgers University and the University of Massachusetts.

From 1973 until 1982, Foster served in a number of positions at Harvard University, including director of the Field Experience Program in the Graduate School of Education, chairman of the Hispanic Study Group, assistant director of the Kennedy Institute of Politics, visiting professor of African American studies and lecturer in Education.

From 1982 to 1993, Foster worked for Aetna Life and Casualty, where he founded and served as president of Aetna's Institute for Corporate Education. Between 1993 and 1994, Foster worked as the vice president of human resources for University Hospitals of Cleveland and University Health System. Foster also served on the Governor's Human Resource Investment Council of Ohio before founding his own company, Transport America, where from 1994 to 1997 he served as president and CEO.

From 1998 until 2000, Foster served as the director of the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs at Tufts University, where he also taught classes on leadership. In November 2000, Foster was appointed president and CEO of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, the oldest continuously operating foundation serving the educational needs of African Americans, Native Americans, Africans, and the rural and urban poor.

Foster been recognized for his academic and professional achievements and for his community service. An active consultant and board member of many organizations and businesses, Foster has published numerous papers, articles, and books on politics and cultural affairs.

He married Juanita Foster in 1965. They have two sons, Nabil and Qasim.

Foster passed away on January 31, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Badi Foster was conducted by Amy Billingsley on January 25, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Educator and nonprofit executive Badi Foster (1942 - 2019) was the CEO of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, which serves the educational needs of African Americans, Native Americans, Africans, and the poor. Foster also worked at Princeton University, Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts, Harvard University and Tufts University.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Foster, Badi G., 1942-

Billingsley, Amy (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Foster, Badi G., 1942- --Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

Nonprofit organizations--Employees--Interviews

Africa, North--Social life and customs

United States--Illinois--Chicago--Social life and customs

Bahai Faith

Racially mixed people--Interviews

Blacks--Race identity

Discrimination in higher education--United States--Colorado--Denver

University of Denver--Alumni--Interviews

Princeton University--Alumni--Interviews

Civil rights movement--New Jersey--Princeton

Children--Death--Psychological aspects

Harvard University--Faculty--Interviews

Tufts University--Faculty--Interviews

United States--Foreign relations--Middle East

African Americans--Study and teaching--Massachusetts--Cambridge

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, January 25, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_001, TRT: 0:29:35 ?

Educator and non-profit director, Badi G. Foster details his early years growing up on Chicago's South side then later Morocco. The child of an interracial marriage and activist parents, Badi was raised in the Baha'i faith. Foster discusses issues his skin color raised while living in Morocco and how that shaped his worldview.

African American educators--Interviews.

Nonprofit organizations--Employees--Interviews.

Africa, North--Social life and customs.

Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs.

Bahai Faith.

Racially mixed people--Interviews.

Blacks--Race identity.

Discrimination in higher education--United States--Colorado--Denver.
University of Denver--Alumni--Interviews.
Princeton University--Alumni--Interviews.
Civil rights movements--New Jersey--Princeton.
Children--Death--Psychological aspects.
Harvard University--Faculty--Interviews.
Tufts University--Faculty--Interviews.
United States--Foreign relations--Middle East.
African Americans--Study and teaching--Massachusetts--Cambridge.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_002, TRT: 0:29:55 ?

Former educator and director of the Phelps Stokes Foundation, Badi G. Foster describes his life on the cusp of great change. His parents moved the family to Morocco in the mid 1950s and Foster details the differences in his Chicago and African life. He attends college at the University of Denver and notices the disparities between himself and others, especially in exposure to American-style discrimination and racism.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_003, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Educator and director of the Phelps Stokes Fund, Dr. Badi G. Foster, details his post graduate education at Princeton University and his subsequent Fulbright Scholarship which allowed him to study the role of politics in Moroccan shantytowns. Foster also discusses the effect of the civil rights movement had upon his political behavior while at Princeton.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_004, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Educator and director of the Phelps Stokes Fund, Dr. Badi G. Foster, recounts his doctoral and post doctoral years in education. He describes life as a student and then professor on Princeton University's all-male and nearly all white student body during the turbulent 1960s. Foster also shares the loss of his son due to anaphylactic shock at the age of nine and how that impacted intrafamilial realtions.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_005, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Educator and director of the Phelps Sokes Fund, Dr. Badi G. Foster, details his involement in the redevelopment of Harvard University's Afro American Studies Department in the 1970s. His career intersected with many noteable black scholars including Henry Louis Gates, Toni Morrison, Cornel West, Sonia Sanchez among others. Foster also discusses his efforts at Tufts University, where he established the University College of Citizenship and Public Service.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_006, TRT: 0:31:05 ?

Educator and president of the Phelps Stokes Fund, Dr. Badi G. Foster shares some final thoughts on the legacy he hopes to leave, the state of U.S.- Middle East relations, and his life accomplishments.

Video Oral History Interview with Badi Foster, Section A2003_021_001_007, TRT: 0:07:15 ?

Dr. Badi G. Foster narrates her photographs